



Brian F. Fontes, Ph.D. • Vice President, Federal Relations • phone 202.419.3010 • fax 202.419.3052

July 8, 2005

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

JUL 8 2005

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

RE: WT Docket No. 01-309, Hearing Aid Compatibility  
**EX PARTE**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 7, 2005, Brian Fontes, Vice President-Federal Relations, Ben Almond, Vice President-Federal Regulatory Affairs and Mike Roden, Executive Director-External Affairs, of Cingular Wireless, met with Cathy Seidel, Acting Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB), Julius Knapp, Deputy Chief-Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) and other members of WTB and OET. The other attendees were Nicole McGinnis of WTB and Patrick Forster of OET. Rashmi Doshi and William Hurst, both of OET, participated via video bridge from the FCC's Lab in Columbia, Maryland.

The Cingular representatives discussed the company's efforts to implement the September 16, 2005 HAC acoustic coupling mandate. The following issues were discussed:

- Cingular representatives discussed the results of two recent test projects. The first project involved the measurement of immunity of hearing aids to GSM 850 MHz and 1900 MHz emissions. Twelve hearing aids were tested with two GSM 850/1900 MHz wireless handsets. The second project involved tests conducted during the recently held Self Help for Hard of Hearing (SHHH) Conference in Washington, DC under the auspices of the ATIS HAC Incubator Working Group 9. At the SHHH conference, hearing aid usability was measured utilizing four GSM 850/1900 MHz dual-band handsets. The test subjects were volunteers from the attendees at the Conference.

The results of these tests strongly support the finding that the coupling effect of today's hearing aid models with digital handsets is significant enough to eliminate and/or mitigate major interference for most hearing aid users using GSM 850 and GSM 1900 MHz handsets. These test results raise issues concerning whether the current C63.19 standard test protocol sufficiently captures the effective coupling interaction of hearing aid and handset devices. Cingular intends to bring these issues to the attention of appropriate industry standards bodies.

No. of Copies made 0+1  
List ABOVE

- Cingular also shared the current status of its efforts in working with its vendors including HAC dual-mode products being considered for availability by or around September 16, 2005.

Please associate this notification with the above-referenced docketed rulemaking proceeding. If there are any questions concerning this matter, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Brain F. Fontes  
Vice President-Federal Relations

Cc: Cathy Seidel  
Julius Knapp  
Nicole McGinnis  
Patrick Forster  
Rashmi Doshi  
William Hurst